

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SAM-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 /049 W

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O 241656Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3770

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DEPT PASS ALL NATO CAPITALS FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP

SUBJECT: FRANCO FUNERAL

AND JUAN CARLOS' SWEARING-IN

1. THE RITES OF PASSAGE FOR FRANCO
AND JUAN CARLOS HAD AN ALMOST
ELEGIAC QUALITY WITH A PRONOUNCED ABSENCE OF GREAT PASSION
BEFITTING -- AS COMMENTATORS HAVE NOTED THIS MORNING --
A MATURE AND MODERN SPAIN. PROBABLY THE BEST MEASURE LAY
IN THE MANNER
IN WHICH UNCOUNTED NUMBERS OF SPANISH SLOWLY
WOUND THEIR WAY AROUND OLD MADRID TO FILE BY THE BIER. THEY
STOOD IN LINE UP TO 14 HOURS, CHATTING QUIETLY WITH LITTLE
VISIBLE EMOTION, WAITING THEIR TURN TO PAY THEIR LAST
RESPECTS TO THE MAN WHO HAD RULED THEM FOR 39 YEARS.
(THE GOS ESTIMATED 380 000 FILED BY.)

2. THE FUNERAL MASS AT THE PLAZA DE ORIENTE DID NOT FILL
THE PLAZA, BUT LARGE CROWDS LINED THE ROAD OUT TO THE
VALLEY OF THE FALLEN, WHERE ANOTHER HUGE CROWD WAITED.
THE GOS HAD WISELY
PUT THE VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS,
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THE MOST FANATIC QTE BLUE SHIRTS UNQTE THERE RATHER

THAN IN DOWNTOWN MADRID AT THE MASS. THERE WERE MOMENTS OF FALANGE SALUTES AND CRIES OF "FRANCO, FRANCO" BUT THE EXTREME RIGHT WAS UNDER CONTROL. IN FACT, WE KNOW OF NO INCIDENTS DURING THESE DAYS EXCEPT THAT THE POLICE NOW AND THEN WOULD STOP PEOPLE FROM TRYING TO BREAK IN TO THE LINES WAITING TO PASS BY FRANCO'S BIER.

3. THE RELATIVELY SIMPLE SWEARING IN CEREMONY -- IN SPAIN KINGS ARE NOT CROWNED, NOR DID JUAN CARLOS WEAR ROYAL ROBES -- WAS WATCHED ON TELEVISION BY ALL OF SPAIN. IN SUM, THE RITUALS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN DONE WITH DIGNITY AND ELEGANCE. IN RESPECT OF THE FUNERAL CEREMONY, IT CAN BE FAIRLY SAID THAT A GREAT MANY SPANIARDS -- REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL PREFERENCES FOR THE FUTURE -- PAID THEIR RESPECTS TO THE MAN WHO RULED SPAIN SO LONG AND BROUGHT SPAIN INTO THE MODERN ERA.

4. SPAIN OF COURSE WAS PREPARED FOR FRANCO'S DEATH, THERE COULD BE NO SENSE OF THE TRAGIC - OF A MAN TORN FROM LIFE BEFORE HIS TIME. AND THE MOOD OF SPAIN FAVORS CHANGE WITHOUT ADVENTURE, A PROSPECT THAT JUAN CARLOS AT THIS MOMENT HAS COME TO PERSONIFY. ALL IN ALL, THESE DAYS HAVE DONE CREDIT TO THE SPANISH. STABLER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED NATO CAPITALS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, STATE FUNERALS, CORONATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID08266
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750409-0022
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751116/aaaaansx.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRANCO FUNERAL AND JUAN CARLOS' SWEARING-IN
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP, (FRANCO BAHAMONDE, FRANCISCO), (JUAN CARLOS I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006